



February 2, 2023

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

FAVORABLE - House Bill 123- Vehicle Laws- HOV Lanes- Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) support **House Bill 123 Vehicle Laws- HOV Lanes- Plug-In Electric Vehicles**. House Bill 123 allows for plug-in electric drive vehicles for which a permit has been obtained from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

Maryland has set an ambitious goal of 300,000 zero emission vehicles on the road by 2025 and 600,000 by 2030. While coming down in price, electric vehicle prices can still be seen as high for the average vehicle owner. To meet this goal, it is important to identify ways to incentivize the purchase of these vehicles. Continuing access to Maryland's HOV lanes for electric vehicle users is another tool to help the State incentivize electric vehicle ownership. Accordingly, Pepco and Delmarva Power launched our EVSmart Programs, which support efforts to increase utilization of electric vehicles and helps to reduce greenhouse gas reduction emissions. The EVSmart Programs provide rebates, tools and information to help customers make more informed decisions to make the transition to a cleaner transportation option.

Finally, encouraging the growth of electric vehicles is critically important as transportation is the single largest GHG emissions generator in Maryland. Electric vehicles will play an integral role in helping Maryland meet its emission reduction goal. For reasons stated above, Pepco and Delmarva Power respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 123 and thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for sponsoring this legislation.

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